

federal employees was vital in educating lawmakers and constituents on the important role federal employees play in keeping our nation safe and growing our economy.

During her national presidency, federal employees have contributed \$159 billion toward deficit reduction over 10 years in pay freezes, increased pension retirement contributions, and furloughs. She has relentlessly educated the public on the important contributions made by federal employees and how cutting employee pay and benefits hurts our government's ability to recruit and retain the best workforce possible to serve the American people.

As someone who has the honor of representing over 51,000 federal employees from the 4th Congressional District of Maryland, I have been fortunate to work closely with Colleen for several years. I thank her for her dedication to federal employees and our country, and I look forward to coordinating closely with Colleen's successor to ensure America's federal employees receive the pay and benefits they deserve.

I wish Colleen continued success, happiness, and hopefully some well-earned rest. She leaves behind a legacy of service that others can and should aspire to.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,151,851,139,012.51. We've added \$7,524,974,090,099.43 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL H. CHARLES "CHUCK" HODGES JR.

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel H. Charles "Chuck" Hodges Jr., a decorated and active leader in our Armed Forces.

For the past several years, Chuck has commanded Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) with passion, courage, and dedication. With unparalleled determination to forge stronger ties with the surrounding communities, improve the on-base education system, and assist with the transition from military to civilian life, Chuck has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of those both on and off the base.

During his command, Chuck has been fully aware that his influence and work extends beyond JBLM's fences. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his work, including with the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber Military Citizen of the Year award, which honored

his tireless efforts to cultivate a stronger bond with the base's host community.

Chuck has also helped to facilitate the renovation and replacement of five aging on-base schools. These schools, modernized with Congressional funding following the efforts of the Military Child Education Initiative, are the foundation for the growth and development of the next generation of leaders, both military and civilian.

Furthermore, Chuck's focus on smoothing the transition from military to civilian life is a major asset to the Puget Sound region and our military veterans. He assisted thousands of service members by helping to facilitate job fairs, training, and career-counseling services on base. His hard work is paying off: between December 2011 and April 2014, the employment rate of service members transitioning from JBLM rose from 18 to 42 percent. While there is still work to be done, Chuck's efforts have undoubtedly left a mark in providing for our past, future and present service members.

It is with great honor that I recognize Chuck as he moves on from his position as Base Commander of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and more importantly for his 30 years of service in the United States Army. I wish him the best and am confident that he will continue to do outstanding work in his civilian life.

HONORING THE STAFF OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard working and dedicated staff of the Columbia County Department of Social Services.

The good people of Columbia County, New York are well served by this outstanding group of high minded professionals whose sole purpose is to serve the public. Rarely do these fine individuals receive any sort of public acclaim; nonetheless, they remain steadfast in their commitment to providing timely and effective human services. Whether it be providing funding for fuel oil to needy families each winter, finding shelter for families during hard times, protecting children from the horrors of child abuse, or reuniting a family torn apart by the ravages of substance abuse, Commissioner Jablonka and his staff are relentless in their pursuit of the public welfare.

Commissioner Jablonka, who began his illustrious career in public service as a DSS caseworker more than forty years ago, is blessed to have an outstanding staff assisting him. Deputy Commissioner Michelle Ublacker has made a tremendous contribution to the agency in the few short months since coming on board. She brings with her a strong background in human services, years of experience as a DSS caseworker and a tenacious work ethic. Her commitment to excellence is apparent to all who serve with her. Under Michelle is an exemplary group of Directors who oversee the day to day operations of the agency: Lynn Kutski, Judy Richards, Deborah Amerling and Valerie Caruso make up this exceptional team and together they have worked hard to help move the agency forward into the

twenty-first century. With leadership such as this, it is easy to see how the Department continues to excel in its efforts to serve our community.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the most important group of individuals who contribute to the success of Columbia County's Department of Social Services—the caseworkers, investigators and the clerical and legal staffs who are the backbone of the agency. They lead the way in the ongoing struggle to end poverty, child abuse, substance abuse, and domestic violence. They protect the young and the old alike, and they do so without fanfare. But today we acknowledge our caseworkers and thank them for all that they do.

May God bless each member of this team.

HONORING EDWARD "SANDY" MOTON DAVIS III ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland, and I would like to recognize the career and retirement of Sandy Davis, the associate director for legislative affairs for the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] and thank him for his distinguished service to the Budget Committee and the Congress.

Sandy is retiring after 36 years of dedicated service to the federal government. Sandy first joined CBO in 1996 as a senior analyst focusing on Congressional budget procedures and practices. Since 2003, he has served as the associate director for legislative affairs. In this role, Sandy has diligently served as CBO's chief liaison to the Congress and has worked closely with the Budget Committee. He has been invaluable in assisting committee members and staff in fulfilling our responsibilities under the Congressional Budget Act. During his time at CBO, Sandy has served under six Directors and in both Republican and Democratic Congresses. Prior to joining CBO, he served as an analyst and senior budget process specialist at the Congressional Research Service.

As the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, we greatly appreciate Sandy's exceptional service to the Budget Committee and the Congress. Sandy exemplifies CBO's high standard of professionalism, expertise, and nonpartisanship. We wish him all the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

RECOGNITION OF THE JUSTICE FOR CONGO VICTIMS AND CONGO REFORMS PEACE CONVENTION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to submit the following